

S. M. Talaat, L.R.C.P., E. C. Turton, M.B., P. Venables, M.B., D. R. Wilkie, M.D., H. P. Williams, L.R.C.P., Major, R.A.M.C.

Licences

Licences to practise were conferred upon the following 184 candidates (including 29 women) who had passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Board and who have complied with the necessary by-laws:

F. Alberts, R. C. Allison, Daphne S. A. Anderson, G. J. E. Ansell, E. R. Arnold, Lenorah M. Atkins, G. M. Bailey, Joan R. K. Bastable, J. G. Bearn, T. R. Bennett, F. M. Benton, M. Blackwell, Stella Booth, Camilla B. P. Bosanquet, Lesley M. McL. Bowen, H. L. Brateman, N. Brodie, D. E. St. J. Burrowes, J. P. Bush, I. Butler, N. J. Caldwell, Margaret Capra, C. L. Casimir, D. A. Chandler, D. J. Chapman, J. Clarke-Goldthorpe, J. P. Clayton, D. Cockcroft, N. C. Connell, D. E. Cullington, R. Davidson, R. H. Davidson, E. C. Davies, Elizabeth E. Davies, E. J. L. Davies, N. N. Davies, S. Davis, D. A. Dawson, C. H. de Boer, R. A. Denham, A. L. de Silva, D. C. de Ville, A. G. Dingley, E. M. C. Dunlop, A. L. T. Easton, A. McK. Elliott, E. Ellis, R. H. Ellis, R. F. Ewing, A. Fernandez, J. Fife, M. L. H. Flindt, K. J. R. Ford, G. Forrester, W. S. Foster, A. E. Fyfe, J. Goddard, B. Gordon, C. W. Graham-Stewart, M. Grant, J. S. B. Greenfield, R. E. Gruchy, Tatiana P. Guercken, R. J. H. Guy, D. Hacking, H. M. Halle, Audrey Hanson, M. J. Harman, R. P. Harwood, A. G. Hayter, A. G. S. Heathcote, Mary Helmer, M. J. T. Hewetson, P. H. Hewitt, C. Hougie, Betty E. Howarth, D. E. Howells, C. H. A. Hoy, D. Hull, E. C. Hutchinson, M. S. R. Hutt, J. A. Hyde, C. C. Jackman, D. W. James, J. B. James, R. H. F. James, J. P. Janvrin, H. Jasowitz, P. M. Jeavons, F. F. Jerichow, D. J. B. Johnston, D. E. E. Jones, P. M. P. Jones, W. J. R. Jones, W. R. Jukes, H. T. Kay, H. E. M. Kay, Catherine M. R. Kirkpatrick, J. M. Kodicek, P. B. Kunkler, Stephanie A. Laing, H. A. Lane, J. G. Latimer, V. M. Leveaux, P. B. Levison, Helen M. Littler, Lilwen E. Lloyd, W. H. Lonsdale, J. D. Lucy, Joan V. Macdonald, R. C. McGregor, C. McIver, J. McMillan, P. N. Magee, J. E. Marrett, Margaret L. V. Matthews, M. Mattinson, W. G. Miln, M. Mir-Fakhrai, W. T. S. Moore, T. H. Morgan, D. R. Murley, R. R. W. Nichols, W. Niman, D. E. Oakley, Mora A. C. O'Hanlon, D. O'Keefe, Liliane Parkinson, Deirdre Paulley, J. P. Penon, I. M. Perkins, P. J. Preston, A. H. C. Ratliff, J. W. T. Redfern, A. P. Reed, N. C. Rees, Rosemary J. Reynolds, L. F. Richards, Rachel Richards, K. E. Rimmington, P. A. Ring, K. B. Roberts, J. O. Robinson, N. Rosedale, D. E. Rowlands, J. T. Rowling, C. M. Ruben, A. J. Rundle, Christine E. Sandford, G. A. Sedee, S. Seed, J. D. F. Shaw, D. A. Sherman, C. Shiers, Christine M. Singer, C. J. Stevenson, W. M. B. Strangeways, G. S. Tapsall, T. Taylor, H. G. Thomas, Peggy Thomas, J. M. Thompson, B. T. R. Thornton, Phyllida M. M. Thornton, W. R. L. Thursfield, J. V. Thurston, M. Tobias, D. G. L. Trust, F. T. G. Tuffnell, J. C. L. Wade, R. J. Walsh, D. A. Watkins, Mary Weston, J. A. Wheeler-Bennett, L. R. Whittaker, G. H. Whittle, W. B. Howell, J. B. Wild, C. B. Williams, R. L. Wills, W. H. D. Wince, D. L. Woolf, K. A. A. Wray, Joan D. Wrigley.

Diplomas

Diplomas in Child Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the 35 successful candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of Oct. 27 (p. 588).

Diplomas in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, in Medical Radiology, and in Physical Medicine were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the following successful candidates:

OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—D. Ainslie, F. J. Damato, A. J. Elliot, H. C. Kodilinye, J. M. Loftus, P. J. McNicholas, L. H. G. Moore, J. C. Mustardé, T. H. Negus, A. K. Pittman, D. Shorten, R. Vaughan-Jones.

MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—R. A. Andrews, K. C. Falkner, R. M. Hall, T. M. Young.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE.—F. J. Bach, E. J. Crisp.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Bread and Nutrition

In the House of Lords on Oct. 24 Lord HANKEY moved that the health of the population should be the guiding principle governing the Government's nutritional policy, and that in the case of bread the health of the consumer should be the primary factor and milling and other interests should be developed in harmony with this policy. He said the debate on bread which had been initiated by Lord Teviot on Feb. 28 had aroused remarkable interest. The leading article on it in the *British Medical Journal* headed "The Political Loaf" [March 17, p. 372] had caused many a chuckle. Lord Teviot in that debate had secured an undertaking that if the Government had been found wrong in reducing the extraction of flour to 80% it would go back to 82½%. A second undertaking was that the Government would not reduce the rate below 80% until it was satisfied that this change would not be detrimental to nutrition. Lord Hankey said that in the subsequent eight months figures and facts had been published which suggested that the Government was wrong and ought to go back to 82½%, or better still to 85%. Figures supporting that contention were based on the seventh report of the Scientific Adviser's Division, Ministry of Food, checked by a memorandum on nutritive values of wartime foods which had been published by the Medical Research Council.

The present 80% flour showed no marked difference from the 85% flour of Lord Woolton in the figures for proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and calories. But the 85% flour contained

a more valuable assortment of proteins, and their loss could not be stated in figures or corrected by enrichment or fortification. For the protective elements, which research had shown to be vital to health, the story was worse. The present 80% flour showed a loss of 10.2% in vitamin B compared with the 82% flour and 19.2% compared with the 85% flour; riboflavin showed a loss of 20% compared with last autumn's flour and 38½% compared with Lord Woolton's flour; nicotinic acid had a loss of 8.3% compared with the former but only 2½% compared with the latter. Iron in the present flour was reduced by 16½% compared with last autumn's flour and 21.7% compared with Lord Woolton's flour. That loss must be taken seriously because reduction in anaemia followed the introduction of the 85% flour. Other substances in wheat were removed progressively in passing from a whole wheat to a 75% flour. These unknown substances could be demonstrated by animal experiments to be nutritionally valuable. Obviously the millers could only put back what they knew they had taken out. Useful bran was also taken from the loaf. The 85% bread had been recommended all through the war as an optimum loaf by the Medical Research Council. The net result of the change involved the risk of an increase in anaemia, constipation, and consequential troubles.

A report on health and nutrition in the Channel Islands showed that the extraction level during the German occupation was practically 100% and that the great majority of people came to like the loaf. The medical profession of Jersey and Guernsey regretted its disappearance and its replacement by white bread when the relieving Forces arrived. While the 100% loaf was consumed the incidence of appendicitis, colds, and new cases of peptic ulcer was believed to have fallen considerably. In Jersey there had been no influenza epidemic. The first effect of the 100% loaf had been looseness of the bowels, sometimes severe, but after three months the symptoms abated and constipation, which before the occupation had been one of the commonest complaints, almost entirely disappeared. The investigators found nothing in Jersey approaching widespread undernutrition and were much impressed with the excellent condition of the teeth of the children. Lord Hankey added that vegetables had been unrationed and abundant during the occupation and were a staple food. Britain ought to go back to 82½ or 85%, and he asked the Government to publish the opinion of its scientific advisers.

NATURAL VITAMINS VERSUS SYNTHETIC

Lord HORDER, supporting the motion, said that since the debate on Feb. 28 a conference on the post-war loaf had been attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Health for Scotland, the Medical Research Council, the milling and baking industries, and flour importers. That conference agreed that three essential token nutrients could be specified as present in the wheat berry; that these could be assayed without difficulty and determined by the ordinary analyst; and that a minimum quantity of each of these should be present if bread was to remain the main contributory factor in the nation's health. Therefore the Government would have a basis on which it could make regulations requiring the minimum amounts of these substances to be present in flour, assuming that the Government decided to continue to regulate the character of flour.

The Chairman of the Food and Nutrition Board of the U.S.A. National Research Council reported that synthetic vitamins and vitamin concentrates were expedients which could not form the basis for a sound nutrition programme. The conference had left this question of the source of the token nutrients open for further research, but unanimously considered that in the meantime the Government should stick to the 80% extraction because it had coincided with such good health in the nation and could give the minimum quantities of the essential nutrients. Whether it did give them in the hands of a section of the milling industry could be judged only by analysis of bread obtained here and there in the country. There was no strict relation between the nutritive quality of flour and the extraction rate. Present knowledge of how these nutrients were distributed in the wheat grown was very recent, more of months than of years, but it had been confirmed. This knowledge permitted an improvement of milling to such an extent that they now knew at which part of the milling process the results should not be thrown away or even given to pigs and poultry. By the technique of milling they could direct into the flour the things they really required. The coarse fibre of bran could be diverted elsewhere and the loaf thereby made whiter and more acceptable to the average citizen.

Lord ADDISON agreed with the principle of the resolution that the health of the population should guide the nutritional policy of the Government. This country owed a debt to the Ministry of Food for emphasizing the importance of nutritional policy as underlying supply policy. The Government hoped

to keep the benefits which had already arisen from that policy. It accepted the necessity for continuance of the Ministry of Food. Bread was not the only food to which the Ministry of Food had added advantageous materials: margarine had been greatly improved. He hoped the country would become accustomed to regard the existence of a Ministry of Food, performing these and other functions, as an essential part of our national economy.

He accepted the suggestion that the Government should publish the report of the conference on the post-war loaf. When that was done the discussion could be conducted on a higher level because it had hitherto been encumbered by guesswork. He noticed from the report that riboflavin was decidedly less in quantity in the 80% extraction than in the higher extraction. That was not of itself an objection to the 80% flour, because riboflavin was normally taken in other foods. He was authorized by the Minister of Food to say that he would give every help in furthering the researches which the conference recommended. The conference had unanimously suggested that in the meantime the present national flour should be maintained with the improvements brought about by the latest improved methods of milling. The Government proposed to accept that recommendation.

Lord TEVIOT said that in the last few years many of the old-fashioned stone-grinding mills had applied for licences to start again, but only a very small number had been granted. There should be an opportunity for restarting these mills.

PUBLIC PREFERENCE ?

Lord GLENTANAR said he was assured by an expert that the extraction to-day was no higher than 78%. He suggested that millers and bakers should have every opportunity to supply wholemeal bread and that white flour should be provided in small quantities for special purposes, but rationed if necessary. Lord LLEWELLIN, speaking of the work done on the extraction rate of flour by the Cereals Research Station at St. Albans, said investigation there had proved that vitamin B₁ and most of the others were highly concentrated in part of the wheat germ, and that this fraction of the wheat could be segregated during milling to ensure that the great part of it went into the flour. When the extraction rate was reduced to 82½% there was a technical process in the mills to ensure that the necessary part of the germ reached the flour and did not go into the offal. It was no good towards the end of a war holding on too long to a kind of bread which the people did not like; a lot of manual workers were not enamoured of high-extraction flour. According to reports made to him when he was Minister of Food there had been an appreciable falling off in nutritional value when an 80% extraction was introduced, taking into account that other things besides bread were provided. Undoubtedly the 80% flour kept better, and the Royal Navy had insisted throughout the war on white flour for every ship commissioned for sea service. With the 85% extraction flour there had been a waste of bread.

Lord BLEDISLOE said he lived among miners and wondered whether the difficulties in securing adequate output of coal were not to some extent due to the fact that the miners preferred white bread and lean bacon. He affirmed that since the last debate on the subject in the House there had been no authoritative medical testimony in favour of a white loaf bereft of its protein, its fat, its iron, its calcium, and its vitamin B. It was the more necessary that bread should not be robbed because the present supply of whole milk was inadequate and would remain so for a considerable time.

The House agreed to Lord Hankey's motion.

Shortage of Nurses

On Oct. 25 Mr. BEVAN announced that according to returns submitted to Mr. Isaacs there were on June 30, 1945, vacancies for about 30,000 nurses of all grades in hospitals and allied institutions, including nursing homes, in Great Britain. He added that he was consulting the Minister of Labour and the organizations principally concerned on the whole nursing position and hoped to make a full statement in two or three weeks. Arrangements were being made whereby women who are willing and suitable to be trained for the nursing profession might be released from the Forces in Class B.

Earl WINTERTON asked the Minister of Health to reconsider the regulation whereby former V.A.D.s and auxiliary nurses wishing to qualify as State-registered nurses would be exempted only from six months of their four years' training. Mr. BEVAN replied that this was primarily a matter for the General Nursing Council, who decided after full consideration and discussion that the remission to be allowed in suitable cases should not exceed six months, thus reducing the minimum period of training from three to two and a half years. He had agreed to approve a rule to that effect.

Food of Diabetic and Tuberculous Persons.—Sir BEN SMITH said on Oct. 10 that he was advised that the present allowances of foodstuffs for diabetic and tuberculous patients were adequate for their needs. He could only allow them extra eggs at the expense of other members of the community, some of whom suffered from complaints for which eggs were a necessity. During the present general shortage of foodstuffs he could not provide diabetic and tuberculous patients with extra eggs prescribed for them by their own doctor.

Health Insurance Benefit.—On Oct. 11 Mr. BEECHMAN asked the Minister of National Insurance whether, in view of the delay before the passing into law of a comprehensive scheme of national insurance, he would forthwith introduce measures to bring the rate of sickness benefit into conformity with unemployment and other benefits, and extend to all cases of sickness provision for dependants. Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS said that partial legislation on this matter in advance of the main insurance measure would be unsatisfactory. The Government intended so to frame the main legislation that the earliest practicable opportunity could be taken of bringing into effect, as part of a general plan, improvements in rates and conditions of health insurance benefit.

Mortality from Infectious Diseases.—Mr. BEVAN has furnished the following table for England and Wales:

Death Rates per Million living under the Age of 15 Years

Cause	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944*
Scarlet fever ..	12	11	9	11	9
Diphtheria ..	266	280	192	134	92
Whooping-cough ..	78	279	94	129	121
Measles ..	95	128	53	86	28

* Rates for 1944 are provisional.

Notes in Brief

The possibility of treating Service tuberculosis patients in Service hospitals or Service wings of civilian sanatoria is being examined with a view to minimizing any delay between diagnosis and the institution of appropriate treatment.

In the British zone in Germany the minimum food value of all displaced persons is 2,000 calories per person per day.

The Ministry of Supply is the wartime production authority for x-ray equipment and accessories. The post-war position is under consideration, and no consultations with the industry have yet taken place.

Dr. Summerskill, in reply to a question to the Minister of Food, said on Oct. 18 that existing arrangements for supplying dried bananas to patients with coeliac disease should not cause difficulty or delay.

Correction.—The statement on release of students in Medical Notes in Parliament (Oct. 27, p. 589) contains a misprint; students eligible for release in Class B are those in groups 1-49, and not 1-19 as stated.

Medical News

The Council of the Royal Society of Medicine proposes to create a Section of Endocrinology. The 50th anniversary of the discovery of x rays will be celebrated by the Section of Radiology at a meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 4.30 p.m., under the chairmanship of Lord Horder, and, at 8 p.m., there will be a reception and entertainment.

Dr. J. M. Alston, pathologist to the Archway Group Laboratory (L.C.C.), will lecture on the scope of penicillin therapy to the Association of Austrian Doctors in Great Britain on Nov. 8 at 6 p.m., at 69, Greencroft Gardens, N.W.6 (near Finchley Road Station). Guests will be welcome.

The Food Education Society (29, Gordon Square, W.C.) has arranged a public lecture on "Food and Behaviour," to be given by Dr. E. A. Hamilton Pearson at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 3 p.m.

A meeting of the Tuberculosis Association will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Friday, Nov. 16. Papers will be read, at 4.45 p.m., by Prof. G. Selby Wilson on "Bovine Infection and Disease" and, at 5.50 p.m., by Dr. Kalman Mann on "Incidence of Primary and Haematogenous Lung Lesions in Skeletal Tuberculosis." At 8 p.m. there will be a discussion on "Prognosis and Treatment of Combined Tuberculosis," to be opened by Dr. Harley Stevens, Mr. G. R. Girdlestone, and Dr. F. S. Hawkins.

A meeting of the Society of Public Analysts and Other Analytical Chemists will be held at the Chemical Society's rooms (Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.) on Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., when the following papers will be presented and discussed: "The Determination of Carotene and Vitamin A in Butter and Margarine," by Mr. T. W. Goodwin and Prof. R. A. Morton, and "A Photo-electric Method of Assaying Vitamin A in Margarine," by Messrs. J. L. Bowen, N. T. Gridgeman, and G. F. Longman.

Dr. John Scott Clark has been released from internment in Japanese hands.